



St. Michael the Archangel
Our Angel of Protection

St. Michael's School

December 2022

"A Community of Faith Devoted to Students"



20th Annual School Auction

WE'RE BACK IN PERSON. We are so excited to announce that our annual supper and auction will once again be in person on Friday, December 2. Doors open at 4:30, supper served from 5:00-6:30 with the live auction beginning at 7:00 pm. Thank you to the Auction Committee for all of their hard work to organize and host this wonderful event. Donations continue to roll in and it looks like another exciting night is in store.

Parents, you are reminded to return your volunteer form ASAP. Your time and contributions to the evening are needed and greatly appreciated. When we put our efforts together we can do great things. We look forward to seeing everyone back at the school. Tell your family and friends to join us for a fun evening of reconnecting and shopping.

Student Council News

December 1 is Hat Day. Students need to bring a \$1.00 to school that day in order to wear their hat all day. Proceeds from "Hat Day" will go towards Chalice, a Canadian Catholic international aid charity focused on child, family, and community development for the underprivileged.

Spirit Week Dec. 19-23

- Dec 19 Christmas Hat/Toque & Slippers Day
- Dec. 20 Ugly Sweater/Christmas Sweater Day
- Dec. 21 Red or Green Day
- Dec. 22 Christmas Character Day
- Dec. 23 Pajama Day

Student Council will be serving Christmas Cookies to students and staff on December 20. On December 22 they will also be serving hot chocolate and candy canes.



Book Sale



The Kindergarten and Grade 1/2 class are holding an ABC Book Sale on December 1 and 6 during the lunch hour. You can purchase a book for \$1.00. All money raised will go to the County of 40 Mile Foodbank. Bring your loonie to support our youngest students' efforts to help others less fortunate.

Mission Mexico Day

Mission Mexico Day will be celebrated once again on December 12 the Feast Day of Our Lady of Guadalupe. We are asking all students and staff to bring a loonie (or more if able) to school that day to give to Mission Mexico. Your donations help serve the poorest of the poor in La Montana, a region in the State of Guerrero Mexico. This mission was founded by our former parish priest Father Fred Monk. The Taco in A Bag meal proceeds for the month of December will also be donated to Mission Mexico

Christmas Concert

We are so excited to welcome friends and family back to the school for our annual Christmas Concert on December 22. Doors open at 6:30 with the play "Elves & The Shoemakers" starting at 7:00 p.m.



Growing Great Kids

Students are recognized each month for the acts of kindness and good deeds they are caught doing. Congratulations to Onyx Thacker for being an excellent classmate to a Grade 4 friend in frisbee golf during Phys. Ed. last month. Onyx was the recipient of the \$20 Medicine Hat Mall Gift Card provided by the Conquerville Community Hall. We would like to thank them for their continued support of our students.

Sock It To 'Em

The Nord-Bridge Seniors Centre in Lethbridge is hosting a "Sock It To 'Em" Campaign. They will be collecting socks which will be given to groups like the YWCA Harbour House, Streets Alive Mission and the homeless shelter. A box will be set in the hallway for anyone wishing to donate to this cause. Socks will be collected until December 12.

AR Program

The AR Program has been running for 50 school days with 53 out of 62 students participating. Students have taken 652 quizzes passing 599. This gives us a school average of 82.7% Good job everyone.

St. Michael's School Scholarship

Are you looking for a Christmas gift for someone who has everything? How about a donation to the St. Michael's Scholarship? These funds are never spent and held in an interest bearing account. The interest is spent on the scholarship. You are welcome to donate. Go to: <https://www.canadahelps.org/en/dn/36129> select the Rural Community Fund of Forty Mile and in the message write "For St. Michael's School (Bow Island) Scholarship Fund. It is so exciting to think that our donations will live on forever! Please contact Stephanie Hlady at (403) 545-6530 for more information.



Hot Lunches

Peter's Pizza Day will be served December 1. Order deadline is November 27. Proceeds go toward our Class of '23 Graduation.

Hot Dog Day is set for December 6. Orders are due December 1. Proceeds will go to Chalice.

Taco-In-A Bag Day is Monday, December 12. Orders are due December 4. All proceeds will be donated to Mission Mexico.

Pita Pit Day will be December 15. Order deadline is December 8. Pita Pit sales help support our athletics program. Winners of the free item are: Colin Matz, Levi Wudrich, Loki Thacker and Foster Weatherhead. Congratulations!

All orders can be purchased through School Cash Online. Thank you for continuing to supporting our various fundraising efforts.

40 Mile Food Bank

The school will be collecting food and cash donations for our local Food Bank during the month of December. Donations will be accepted until December 20. Please consider donating to our local needs.





Mini-Ball

The Mini-Ball program for the Grade 4-6 students has started. Please see the attached schedule for game dates and times. Thank you to Ms. Mastulin for once again organizing this extra-curricular activity. Thank you also to our Student Coaches.



December 2022



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Hat Day K-2 Book Sale Peter's Pizza day	2 Annual Supper & Auction	3
4 2nd Sunday of Advent	5	6 K-2 Book Sale Hot Dog Day	7	8	9	10
11 3rd Sunday of Advent	12 Mission Mexico Day Taco In A Bag Lunch	13	14	15 Pita Pit Lunch Day Birthday Assembly 2:30	16	17
18 4th Sunday of Advent	19 Christmas Hat/Toque & Slippers Day	20 Ugly Sweater/Christmas Sweater Day	21 Red or Green Day	22 Christmas Character Day Christmas Concert	23 Pajama Day	24 Christmas Eve 
25 Merry Christmas 	26 Boxing Day NO SCHOOL	27 Christmas Break NO SCHOOL	28 Christmas Break NO SCHOOL	29 Christmas Break NO SCHOOL	30 Christmas Break NO SCHOOL	31

OFF-CAMPUS NEWS

Dual Credit

Courses being offered for the Winter Session are:

Lethbridge College: January 30 to May 9, 2023

Agriculture Finance
Wellness and Health Issues
Anatomy and Physiology 1
Botany
Ecology
Introduction to Aquaponic Principles
Entrepreneurship
Introduction to the Criminal Justice System
The Principles of Animation
Interpersonal Relationships and Communication
Public Safety Communications
Marketing Fundamentals for Media
Health, Nutrition and Safety
Introduction to Early Childhood Education
Foundations of Education Assistance
Composition
Writing for the Workplace
Physical Geology
Family Systems and Development
Introduction to Indigenous Studies
Introduction to Coaching
Introduction to Psychology

Deadline to apply is November 30, 2022

Olds College: February 27 to May 19, 2023

Accounting Principles
Veterinary Practice: The Team Connection
Agriculture Electronics and Control Systems
Applied Ecology
Accommodation Management
Producing Horticulture Crops
Training for Performance

Deadline to apply is February 10, 2023

For more information about these courses or the Dual Credit program Contact Mr. Boschee or Mrs. Gurr.



Upcoming Career Transitions Virtual Career Exploration Sessions

Tuesday, Nov 29 @ 4:30pm—Environmental Scientist

Thursday, Dec 1 @ 4:30pm—Ironworker

Tuesday, Dec 13 4:30pm—Entomologist

Wednesday, Dec 14 @ 4:30pm—Architect

To register or to watch numerous recorded past career sessions go to : careersteps.ca/exploration-sessions/



University of Lethbridge Early Admission

Submit your application for U of L admission before December 15 and you will automatically be considered for the Board of Governor's Admission Scholarship. You could earn up to \$1,000. For more information go to:

<https://www.ulethbridge.ca/future-student/board-governors-admission-award>



Young Women In Trades & Technologies Youth & Parent Information Night

December 1 @ 7:00pm at the Lethbridge College



Come to Lethbridge College to learn more about high school internships in the trades for young women. Try the welding stimulator, interactive plumbing and wind turbine stimulator and have a tour of the trades wing.

Space is limited so RSVP email or call:

kvassell@nextgen.org or 403-308-6823

**Merry Christmas and Best Wishes for 2023
to all students, parents and staff at
St. Michael's School.
Mr. Boschee and Mrs. Gurr**



Your Off-Campus Team

Mark Boschee - Off-Campus Coordinator Cell: 587-220-4258 or Email: boscheem@holyspirit.ab.ca

Wendy Gurr - Career Practitioner - 403-327-4596 Ext 312 or Email: gurrrw@holyspirit.ab.ca



Mini-Volleyball Teams – 2022



Team 1		Team 2		Team 3		Team 4
Meggie		Evander		Hudson		Calum
Weston		Sam		Colin		Onyx
Ciandra		Emily		Mia		Victoria
Mary		Ryker		Griffin		Olivia
Nixon		Levi				
Coaches:		Coaches:		Coaches:		Coaches:
Leigha		Samuelle		Austin		Elody
Elena		Dyllan		Aidan		Jake

- Games will be Livestreamed through the St. Michael's School Facebook page.
- Games will begin at **11:50**.

PRACTICES:

Date:	Teams:
Monday, November 07	3 and 4
Tuesday, November 08	1 and 2



GAMES:

Date:	Teams:
Monday, November 14	1 vs. 2
Thursday, November 17	3 vs. 4
Monday, November 28	2 vs. 4
Tuesday, November 29	1 vs. 3
Wednesday, November 30	1 vs. 4
Monday, December 05	3 vs. 2
Tuesday, December 06	4 vs. 3
Thursday, December 08	2 vs. 1



Playoffs:

Monday, December 12th: 1st place team vs. 4th place team

Thursday, December 15th: 2nd place team vs. 3rd place team

Final:

Winner of Dec. 12th game vs. Winner of Dec. 15th game: Friday, Dec. 16 – 11:00 am

Mini-Ball Rules:

- Games are to be played 4 on 4.
- One bounce is allowed
- Service can be anywhere on the court behind the attack line.
- Normal volleyball dimensions are in play.
- 3 touches maximum per volley.
- No spikes.
- A maximum of 3 successful serves per person. After 3, the opposition will receive serve. (This is to keep the game competitive.)
- Only 1 “try” per service. If the player hits the ball into the net, there is no “do-over”.
- Coaches are responsible for subbing in players and making sure that each player receives equal playing time.
- During **round-robin play**, play continues until the **12:09** bell, or one team reaches 25 points.
- During **playoffs**, the first team to **25** points wins; win by 2 with a **cap at 27**

December

Arise! Pilgrims of Hope



“...to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior,
who is the Messiah, the Lord..”

Luke 2:11

St. Juan Diego 1474-1548 (Feast Day: December 9)

A beautiful picture of Mary can be seen on a cloak above the main altar in the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico City. The cloak belonged to Juan Diego, an Aztec who lived more than 450 years ago. On December 9, 1531, when Juan was a 57-year-old widower, he was walking to Mass. A beautiful lady appeared. She told him she was the Immaculate Virgin Mary, and that she desired to have a shrine there at Tepeyac Hill. Mary asked Juan to tell the bishop of her desire.

The bishop didn't believe him, so Juan returned to the lady and suggested she send a better speaker. Mary told Juan that she chose him for this work and that she would bless him for helping her. Juan revisited the bishop. This time the bishop told him to ask his lady for a sign that she was the Mother of God. Mary then sent Juan to the top of the hill to gather the flowers growing there. Juan knew that nothing grew on that rocky hill, let alone in winter. However, Juan found gorgeous roses! He picked them and brought them to Mary, who arranged them in his cloak and told Juan to take them to the bishop. When the bishop saw Juan, he asked what he had in his tilma. Juan opened it, letting the roses fall. Imagine the bishop's surprise at seeing roses in winter! Yet he saw an even greater miracle: on Juan's cloak a beautiful, life-size image began to appear. Juan Diego remained poor, simple, humble, and devoted to the Eucharist. He spent the next 17 years traveling throughout central Mexico, bringing others to the faith and delivering Guadalupe's message that Mary loves us and wants to help us. Juan Diego was beatified in 1990 and canonized in 2002.

Holy Moments In Our Schools

St. Patrick Fine Arts Arise Wall! Staff and students chose a word to describe a gift or talent God has given them that helps them serve the world in positive ways, and contributes to the Body of Christ.



Advent

Beginning the Church's liturgical year, Advent (from, "ad-venire" in Latin or "to come to") is the season encompassing the four Sundays (and weekdays) leading up to the celebration of Christmas.

The Advent season is a time of preparation that directs our hearts and minds to Christ's second coming at the end of time and to the anniversary of Our Lord's birth on Christmas. From the earliest days of the Church, people have been fascinated by Jesus' promise to come back. But the scripture readings during Advent tell us not to waste our time with predictions. Advent is not about speculation. Our Advent readings call us to be alert and ready, not weighted down and distracted by the cares of this world (Lk 21:34-36).

We see many seasonal devotions during Advent, including the Advent wreath and nativity scenes. This year, Holy Spirit is also releasing a weekly Advent video for your use.

Additional Resource:
[The Symbol of the Advent Wreath](#)



A beautiful picture of Mary can be seen on a cloak above the main altar in the [Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe](#) in Mexico City. The cloak belonged to Juan Diego, an Aztec who lived more than 450 years ago.

The Fruit of the Spirit – Faithfulness

One song that you may hear during the Advent and Christmas season is 'O Come, All Ye Faithful', which is usually the final hymn sung at Midnight Mass at the Vatican. In the original Latin version of the text, the title is *Adeste Fideles*. Our word faithful derives from the Latin word *Fidei*, which also gives us the word fidelity. We might think here of reliability, obedience, loyalty, truthfulness, or constancy. As Catholics, we know of God's faithfulness towards us, his people, and how his promises to us come true (especially shown in this Advent season). We are called to be loyal and trusting in God, and when we do that, even in little ways, our faithfulness is increased by the Holy Spirit.

Paul, in Hebrews, says that "faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen." (Heb 11:1). The church has described this gift of faith, brought by Jesus, as the Light of Faith (*Lumen Fidei*). This was also the name of a Papal encyclical given by Pope Francis in 2013, in which he said:

In God's gift of faith, a supernatural infused virtue, we realize that a great love has been offered us, a good word has been spoken to us, and that when we welcome that word, Jesus Christ the Word made flesh, the Holy Spirit transforms us, lights up our way to the future and enables us joyfully to advance along that way on wings of hope.

As we near the manger at Christmas, may we see in the newborn Jesus the great love of God, and in our faithfulness may the Holy Spirit continue to transform our lives.



"Let not your heart be disturbed... Am I not here, who is your Mother? Are you not under my protection? Am I not your health? Are you not happily within my fold? What else do you wish? Do not grieve nor be disturbed by anything." - Our Lady of Guadalupe

Reflecting on the life of St. Juan Diego Cuauhtlatotzin...

Our Lady of Guadalupe

One of the most well known titles of Mary is Our Lady of Guadalupe, as she revealed herself to St. Juan Diego in 1531. His tilma is now housed in the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico City, one of the most visited Catholic pilgrimage sites in the world. The image, famous around the world in both Catholic and secular culture, shows a pregnant Mary, clothed in a star-covered mantle, eclipsing the sun and standing atop the moon, with a cherub carrying her train. There have been many studies on the tilma, including [detailed study of the locations of the stars and Our Lady's eyes](#), which reveal fascinating details. Our Lady of Guadalupe Patroness of Mexico and the continental Americas, as well as the namesake of the Our Lady of Guadalupe Circle, the group engaged in [renewing and fostering relationships between the Catholic Church and Indigenous Peoples in Canada](#).

Our Lady of Guadalupe, pray for us!



St. Juan Diego Showed "Faithfulness"

"I am a nobody. I am a small rope, a tiny ladder, the tail end, leaf..." St. Juan Diego

With these words to Our Lady of Guadalupe, St. Juan Diego reveals to us his feeling of unworthiness after the bishop didn't believe him. Mary, of course, believes in him, and helps him to try again. Being told by the bishop to provide a sign, St. Juan Diego again returns to Mary and follows her instructions, in spite of the reasons not to. In each step, [St. Juan Diego](#) shows himself to be reliable, obedient, and trusting; the core of faithfulness. In each step, his faithfulness grows, and is rewarded in the end with the [miraculous tilma](#). His faithfulness becomes a model for not only the bishop, but all of the peoples of the Americas. When we find ourselves feeling small or tiny, or a nobody, we can recall the example of St. Juan Diego, whose faithfulness was multiplied exponentially and bore much fruit.

St. Juan Diego, pray for us!

Adapted from Franciscanmedia.org. [A Look at St. Juan Diego](#)

Gospel Readings

December 4, 2022 2nd Sunday in Advent

Gospel Reading: Matthew 3:1-12

"Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths." — Matthew 3:3

John the Baptist cried out in the desert for repentance, for people to turn away from sin. He knew that true repentance would "make straight" the path for Jesus, who was coming to lead people back to God. By repenting, we make the mission of Jesus so much easier! He can reveal the truth to us, and lead us to live and act like he did when he was on earth - welcoming everyone, even those that others didn't like or approve of, teaching how to share so that everyone has enough, giving people a chance to start over when they admitted their mistakes and sins, and more. This Advent is an opportunity to admit our sins, go to confession, and "make straight" the path we are walking with Jesus so we can better live how he taught.

Father in heaven, thank you for giving us your Son to lead us in our journey toward eternal life. Help us enter into a spirit of humility and repentance this Advent!

Are there other things we can do to make it easier for Jesus to show us the truth? What gets in the way of our spiritual journey?

December 18, 2022 4th Sunday in Advent

Gospel Reading: Matthew 1:18-24

"And they shall name him 'Emmanuel', which means 'God is with us.'" — Matthew 1:23

Do you know why your parents picked the name they did for you? Often parents pick a name because the name comes from an older relative, or from an important person they admire, or maybe because your parents really loved the sound of the name. Jesus got his name because the angel told Joseph what to name him. God chose the name "Jesus" which means "God Saves" for his son. The prophets knew also that Jesus would be called Emmanuel, or "God is with us." That was not going to be his given name, but it was going to be who he was! God came to us in the flesh, as a baby, and truly was "with us" then, and now is still truly with us. He will never leave us or abandon us!

Dear Father, thank you for giving us your Son, in the flesh. Thank you, Jesus, for giving us yourself in the Eucharist. You are truly "with us" now and forever!

Does it ever feel like Jesus is not with you? When that happens, think of Jesus like the sun. The sun is always there, even when we can't see its light at night or when it is hidden behind the clouds. Jesus is always still with you, even if you can't feel him.

December 11, 2022 3rd Sunday in Advent

Gospel Reading: Matthew 11:2-11

"Then will the eyes of the blind be opened, the ears of the deaf be cleared." — Isaiah 35:5

Jesus came to bring healing to the world. He began his ministry with many miracles, showing the power of God to heal physical problems, such as blindness and deafness. But "healing the world" did not mean that he was going to heal everyone's physical problems. He came to heal us from sin, anything that hurts our relationship with others, ourselves, and God. Sin can destroy the life of God that lives in our hearts, and for this reason it must be cured - over and over again! Rejoice today, for God sent his Son to bring life and healing to the world, to model how we can be and act in the world, and to cure our sin with his great love! Let us prepare to celebrate his birth with great excitement!

Dear Lord, thank you for sending us your Son to bring true healing, the kind that brings true life. Prepare us to celebrate the great gift of his incarnation at Christmas.

What are some ways we can rejoice this week, and show our thanks to God for healing us from sin?

Gospel Readings

December 25, 2022 The Nativity of the Lord

Gospel Reading: John 1:1-18

"How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings glad tidings, announcing peace, bearing good news..." — Isaiah 52:7

What great joy this day brings to our hearts! We are surrounded by loved ones. We are sharing feasts and receiving presents. But are we seeking the newborn king as the shepherds did? Are we proclaiming the Savior's birth as the angels did? Isaiah reminds us today to bring the good news of Christ's birth to all we meet. We can do this through our actions, words, and even our thoughts. By doing this, we share the peace that is in our own hearts, and that can be one of the greatest gifts we give this year.



*Father in heaven, thank you for the greatest gift that was ever given by anyone,
your son Jesus. We sing his praises along with the angels this day,
saying Glory to the newborn King!*



Download this month's [Saint Prayer Card](#) - St. Juan Diego Cuauhtlatotzin



Sources:

[Saint Juan Diego, 1474-1548](#)

[What Is Advent?](#)

[The Fruit Of The Holy Spirit: What Is Faithfulness?](#)



Arise!

[Pilgrims of Hope Journal](#)

WEEK ONE

The second week of Advent is focused on Peace - what has brought you peace this week?



In God's gift of faith, a supernatural infused virtue, we realize that a great love has been offered us, a good word has been spoken to us, and that when we welcome that word, Jesus Christ the Word made flesh, the Holy Spirit transforms us, lights up our way to the future and enables us joyfully to advance along that way on wings of hope. - Lumen Fidei

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December

WEEK TWO

The third week of Advent is focused on Joy - what little moment has brought you joy this week?



WEEK THREE

The fourth week of Advent is focused on Love - when was a time this week that you felt God's love?



WEEK FOUR

Read Luke 2: 1-20 today. How can you be like the shepherds who spread the news of Jesus' birth?



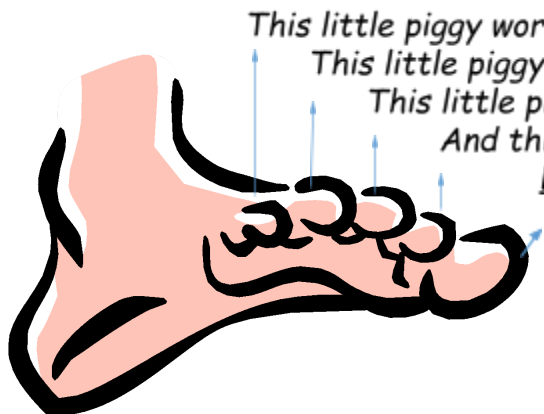
A Prayer to St. Juan Diego

Beloved Juan Diego,
show us the way that leads to the Virgin,
that she may receive us in the depths of her heart,
for she is the loving,
compassionate Mother who guides us to the true God.
Amen.

Our Lady of Guadalupe, Mystical Rose,
make intercession for the Holy Church,
protect the Sovereign Pontiff,

help all those who invoke thee in their necessities,
and since thou art the ever Virgin Mary,
and Mother of the True God,
obtain for us from thy most holy Son
the grace of keeping our faith,
of sweet hope in the midst of the bitterness of life,
of burning charity, and the precious gift of final perseverance.

St. Juan Diego, pray for us.
Our Lady of Guadalupe, pray for us. Amen.



This little piggy wore Argyll,
This little piggy wore tube socks,
This little piggy wore woollies,
And this little piggy dressed in style.
But this little piggy . . . HAD NONE!

SOCK
IT TO
'EM

It's time for **22nd ANNUAL OPERATION:**

From November 1 to December 15, 2022

Nord-Bridge Seniors Centre, along with Support Staff in Lethbridge & Area schools are collecting **NEW SOCKS** to be donated to local charities and those less Fortunate for Christmas.

Please join them and make Someone's Christmas a little bit warmer!

To donate, contact any Office staff at your local school.

QUESTIONS?

Call Gail Petrie (403) 327-6520

Charlene Kocken (403) 329-3222

- Nord-Bridge Seniors Centre
- Lethbridge School District
- Holy Spirit School Division
- Palliser Regional School Division

THE SOUTHERN ALBERTA SKATING ACADEMY

with support from  CITY OF Lethbridge

PRESENTS

Wishes

6pm ENMAX

FRIDAY DECEMBER 23rd

\$12

LOWER BOWL

\$17

ON ICE

\$40

4-PACK

Tickets available through the ENMAX Centre